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Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 59 (A/62/424, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 14th and 33rd meetings, on 26 October and 7 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is given in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.14 and 33).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.3 and A/C.2/62/L.54

2. At the 14th meeting, on 26 October, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "South-South cooperation" (A/C.2/62/L.3), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 60/212 of 22 December 2005, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 and other resolutions relevant to South-South cooperation,

"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

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"*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation, welcoming the support expressed for the convening of a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation, and recognizing the increased role undertaken by the United Nations to support activities in economic cooperation among developing countries,

"*Recalling* the Declaration of the South Summit and Havana Programme of Action, adopted by the first South Summit of the Group of 77, held in Havana from 12 to 14 April 2000, the Doha Declaration, and Doha Plan of Action, adopted by the second South Summit of the Group of 77, held in Doha from 12 to 16 June 2005, the Marrakech Declaration on South-South Cooperation, and Marrakech Framework for the Implementation of South-South Cooperation, adopted on the occasion of the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 16 to 19 December 2003, and other high-level follow-up conferences, which accorded South-South cooperation high priority in order for developing countries to meet new development challenges,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the launching of the third round of negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries as an important instrument through which to stimulate South-South cooperation,

"*Taking note* of the outcome of the first African Conference on Human Development held on 6 and 7 April 2007 in Rabat, Morocco, and noting the generous offer of the Government of Gabon to host the second African Conference on Human Development in Libreville in 2009,

"1. *Welcomes* the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its fifteenth session and the decisions taken at that session;

"2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;

"3. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

"4. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

"5. *Encourages* the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries, inter alia, through triangular cooperation;

"6. *Encourages* the initiatives and arrangements, including public-private mechanisms, undertaken in the efforts to enhance cooperation between developing countries, including, inter alia, in the areas of the fight against poverty and hunger, access to information and communications technology, science and technology, culture, health, education and human development;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultations with Member States, to take concrete measures to further strengthen the Special Unit for

South-South Cooperation, so as to enable it to carry out its full responsibilities, in particular through the mobilization of resources for the advancement of South-South cooperation including through triangular cooperation;

"8. *Recognizes* the need to further assess the progress made by the United Nations development system in its support to South-South cooperation, particularly through the provision of resources for South-South cooperation, and mobilization of technical and financial resources for triangular cooperation, as well as the increased use of South-South cooperation modalities in the work of the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies in order to widen the impact and spread of South-South cooperation;

"9. *Also recognizes* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation, and in this context invites the donor community including Member States to contribute generously to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in accordance with its resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002;

"10. *Reaffirms* that regular resources will continue to fund the activities of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, and encourages the Special Unit to explore and undertake intensive, innovative and additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more resources, both financial and in kind, to supplement regular resources and other funds for activities involving South-South cooperation;

"11. *Encourages* all Member States to deepen, intensify and enhance South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation, in all its aspects, as a continuing and vital process undertaken to help meet the challenges facing the countries of the South, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in post-conflict and crisis situations;

"12. *Decides* to convene a high-level United Nations conference on South-South cooperation on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, no later than the first half of 2009 and requests that the President of the General Assembly entrust the President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation to undertake the necessary consultations in order to prepare for the proposed conference;

"13. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of Argentina to host the high-level United Nations conference on South-South cooperation;

"14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the sub-item entitled 'South-South cooperation for development', and requests the Secretary-General to submit at that session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At its 33rd meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "South-South cooperation" (A/C.2/52/L.54), submitted by the

Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Hassan Ali Saleh (Lebanon), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.3.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.3 (see para. 8).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina and Portugal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union; Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.54, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.3 was withdrawn by its sponsors (see A/C.2/62/SR.33).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 60/212 of 22 December 2005, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 and other resolutions relevant to South-South cooperation,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recalling further its resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004, in which it, inter alia, urged organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to mainstream, in their programmes and through their country-level activities and country offices, modalities to support South-South cooperation,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation, welcoming the support expressed for the convening of a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation, and recognizing the increased role undertaken by the United Nations to support activities in economic cooperation among developing countries,

Taking note of the initiatives contained in the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the first South Summit,[3] the Marrakesh Framework for the Implementation of South-South Cooperation[4] and the Doha Plan of Action,[5]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its fifteenth session and the decisions taken at that session;[6]

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;[7]

3. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

4. *Also stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] A/55/74, annex II.

[4] A/58/683, annex II.

[5] A/60/111, annex II.

[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/62/39).

[7] A/62/295.

5. *Highlights* the fact that, in spite of progress achieved in this area, further efforts are required to better understand the approaches and potential of South-South cooperation to enhance development effectiveness, including through national capacity development;

6. *Encourages* the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries, inter alia, through triangular cooperation;

7. *Encourages* the initiatives and arrangements, including public-private mechanisms, undertaken in the efforts to enhance cooperation between developing countries, including, inter alia, in the areas of the fight against poverty and hunger, access to information and communications technology, science and technology, environment, culture, health, education and human development;

8. *Invites* the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund, as appropriate, to consider measures to strengthen further the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation within the United Nations Development Programme as a separate entity and a focal point for South-South cooperation in the United Nations system, so as to enable it to carry out its full responsibilities, in particular through the mobilization of resources for the advancement of South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation;

9. *Recognizes* the need to further assess the progress made by the United Nations development system in its support to South-South cooperation, particularly through the provision of resources for South-South cooperation, and mobilization of technical and financial resources for triangular cooperation, as well as to mainstream South-South cooperation in the work of the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies in the field;

10. *Also recognizes* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation, and in this context invites the donor community including Member States to contribute generously to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in accordance with its resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002;

11. *Reaffirms* that existing regular resources will continue to fund the activities of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, and encourages the Special Unit to explore and undertake intensive, innovative and additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more resources, both financial and in kind, to supplement regular resources and other funds for activities involving South-South cooperation;

12. *Encourages* all Member States to deepen, intensify and enhance South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation, in all its aspects, as a continuing and vital process undertaken to help meet the challenges facing the countries of the South, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in post-conflict and crisis situations;

13. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen and further invigorate South-South cooperation and, in that regard, decides to convene a high-level United Nations

conference on South-South cooperation on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1] no later than the first half of 2009, and requests that the President of the General Assembly entrust the President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation with undertaking the necessary consultations with Member States in order to prepare for the proposed conference, with a view to the Assembly's taking a decision, during its sixty-second session, on the nature, date, objectives and modalities of the conference, making use of the existing coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system;

14. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of Argentina to host the high-level United Nations conference on South-South cooperation;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "South-South cooperation for development", and requests the Secretary-General to submit at that session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution.